



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

**U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE OF PUBLIC POSTERS
OF CONVICTED CRYSTAL METH DEALERS TO DETER TRAFFICKING**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the sentencing in Manhattan federal court of WILLIAM M. CULLUM to 87 months in prison on five counts of distributing methamphetamine in Manhattan and one count of conspiring to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine, commonly known as "Crystal Meth."

Mr. KELLEY also announced an initiative of the public display of posters of convicted crystal meth dealers in the neighborhoods where they plied their drug trade.

According to the Indictment and a criminal Complaint, over the period July 2003 through October 2003, CULLUM was involved in distributing crystal methamphetamine on approximately five separate occasions in Manhattan. On at least two occasions, CULLUM sold approximately one ounce of crystal meth to an undercover special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), at a price of \$2,800 per ounce. CULLUM pled guilty to all of the charges contained in the six-count Indictment on June 10, 2004.

In sentencing CULLUM to 87 months' imprisonment, United States District Judge GEORGE B. DANIELS called CULLUM's case "serious." CULLUM is 46 years old and resides in Manhattan.

In connection with CULLUM's sentencing, Mr. KELLEY also announced an initiative by the United States Attorney's Office and DEA to publicize the penalties associated with distributing crystal methamphetamine through the creation of color posters containing pictures of convicted crystal methamphetamine dealers, along with the sentences they received. The posters will be posted by DEA Agents in areas where the individuals did their drug dealing, including the Chelsea neighborhood where many of the drug deals took place.

Mr. KELLEY explained that his Office and the DEA are undertaking this initiative in an effort to stem the growth of crystal meth distribution in New York City, by increasing the awareness among users and distributors of the criminal penalties associated with dealing the drug. Federal law treats methamphetamine much like crack cocaine for sentencing purposes.

According to information provided by the DEA, methamphetamine is a highly addictive, overwhelmingly dangerous drug. Some experts say that users often get hooked on meth after just one use. Studies have demonstrated that methamphetamine causes more damage to the brain than heroin, alcohol or cocaine. According to research, in advanced cases of addiction, users can become psychotic with effects that mimic schizophrenia.

According to published reports, use of crystal methamphetamine has become an increasingly visible problem in the gay community. Health officials have linked use of crystal meth to risky sexual behavior and the transmission of STDs and HIV. It may be particularly problematic in individuals with HIV infection. The drug can compromise immune function and interfere with AIDS medications. At least one study found that individuals on antiretroviral medications who used methamphetamine did not have as good a response to their medications as those not using methamphetamine.

The posters are intended to help deter crystal meth distribution by educating the community on the criminal penalties, and by using the names and faces of the actual drug dealers who distributed within that community. For example, one poster contains the name and photograph of convicted crystal meth dealer Michael D. Gordon, along with the words, "Over Six Years For Selling Crystal Meth. Was It Worth It?" According to the criminal complaint in Gordon's case, he dealt crystal meth in Chelsea, around the area of West 22nd Street and Eighth Avenue.

Other convicted crystal meth dealers who are being featured in the posters are Albrecht Pansing, who received more than six years' imprisonment for distributing crystal meth; Ronald S. Watkins, a/k/a "Sammy," who received more than seven years for selling crystal meth; and Herminio Madlangbayan, Jr., a/k/a "Jo Jo," who also received a sentence of more than seven

years' imprisonment for selling crystal meth. CULLUM will also be featured in a poster.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration in this matter.

Assistant United States Attorney STEVEN D. FELDMAN is in charge of the prosecutions.

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